

## Amusements.

**NIBLO'S GARDEN.**  
THIS EVENING—THE BLACK CROOK—Great Parisian Ballet Troupe.

**WINTER GARDEN.**  
THIS EVENING—ITALIAN OPERA—LA SONNAMBULA.

**WALLACK'S THEATRE.**  
THIS EVENING—"OURA"—Mr. Lester Wallace, Mr. Frederic Benson, Mr. John Gilbert, Mr. Charles F. Allen, Miss Madeline Hill, Miss, Vernon.

**OLYMPIC THEATRE.**  
THIS EVENING—MASTER OF BAYSWOOD. Mr. Geo. Jordan, Miss Rose Taylor.

**BROADWAY THEATRE.**  
THIS EVENING—PEOPLE'S LAWYER—HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE. Mr. John E. Owens.

**NEW-YORK THEATRE.**  
THIS EVENING—CENDRILLON—GRAND FAIRY BALLET.

**OLD BOWERY THEATRE.**  
THIS EVENING—THE WIFE OF THE WIFE—ON WHEELS—MAGIC BARREL—THE MAN OF ALL WORK. Mr. W. H. Wadley, Miss Fanny Horton, Mr. L. O. Fox.

**BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM.**  
DAY AND EVENING—KABUL, OF THE WOODEN SHIP. MARTIE, Mr. C. W. Fox, to be a full company. TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND CURIOSITIES—VAN AMBERG'S COLLECTION OF WILD ANIMALS.

**THEATRE FRANCAIS.**  
THIS EVENING—FRANCO OPERA—LE BARBIER DE SEVILLE.

**NEW-YORK CIRCUS.**  
THIS EVENING—NEW-YORK CIRCUS TROUPE. Robert Bickney, Australian Family and Circus, Dr. J. H. Bickney.

**BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.**  
THIS EVENING—RUY BLAS—KATHERINE AND FERUCHIO. Mr. Edwin Booth.

**FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE.**  
THIS EVENING—BOWDITCH'S MINSTREL—THE MAN IN BLACK—TWO POMPEYS—WAKE UP ABRAHAM, &c.

**KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS.**  
THIS EVENING—CHIEF OF THE OLD BLOCK—HOTEL FAIRVIEW, &c.

**NEW-YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY.**  
THE WASHINGTON TWINS—ANATOMICAL COLLECTION. Open daily from 8 a. m. to 10 p. m.

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.**  
SEVENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE ARTIST'S FUND SOCIETY. Open from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m.

**STEWART'S HALL.**  
THIS AFTERNOON—WOLFELOW'S FOURTH BEEHIVE MATINEE, at 2 o'clock.

**CLINTON HALL.**  
THIS EVENING—MR. VALENTINE VOUDEN'S ENTERTAINMENT, "THE CITY OF NATIONS."

**DODWORTH HALL.**  
THIS EVENING—MR. HARTZ, THE ILLUSIONIST.

**FIFTH AVENUE SKATING POND.**  
THIS AFTERNOON—CONCERT BY DODWORTH'S FULL BAND AND SKATING.

**FAIRS.**  
Great Mammoth Fair at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Grand and Croton.

**GRAND FAIR.**  
In the Hall of St. Stephen's Church, Twenty-third and Twenty-ninth sts., between Lexington and Third-ave.

**FAIR OF THE HOUSE AND SCHOOL FOR ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS.**  
Union General House, corner of Broadway and Twenty-third-st.

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## THE LAWS OF HEALTH.

It is not for State Legislatures to pass laws for the preservation of the public health, but for the great law of self-preservation, which depends for its enforcement upon the will of the individual, is suffered to remain a dead letter.

There is scarcely an adult member of the community, of either sex, in this country, who has not seen the testimony in favor of HOPKINS'S STOMACH BITTERS, furnished over their own signatures by persons of acknowledged eminence in science, literature, art, commerce, and every department of business and professional life. These witnesses have declared in the most explicit terms that the preparation is a safe and powerful medicine, a sovereign remedy for dyspepsia, a valuable anti-bilious medicine, a promoter of appetite, a genial and harmless stimulant, a good sedative medicine, a strengthening of the nerves, a general invigorant, a protection against the deleterious effects of malaria and impure water, and that it imparts a degree of vigor and activity to the vital forces which is not communicated by any other of the tonics and stomachics in use. Under these circumstances the self-preservative act of nature should teach every rational person who, either by reason of indolent debility or in consequence of exposure to unwholesome influences, is in peril of losing the greatest of all temporal blessings, HEALTH, the importance of using the Bitters as a *de-fence* against disease. It is imperative to cure indigestion in all its forms and the bilious and nervous will find nothing in the whole range of official and proprietary medicines which will afford them the same relief.

## HOLIDAY GIFTS. FAMILY SILVER!!

LUIGI HART & CO.,  
The Old, Faded Ware House in the City,  
Nos. 41, 43 and 45 NASSAU ST.,  
(Foot of John-st.)  
SILVER-PLATED WARE,  
At Moderate Prices.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS—\$30,000 worth of first-class silver, selling at greatly reduced prices at HART'S, No. 37, Canal-st., corner of Wood-st.

WILLCOX & GIBBS'S SEWING-MACHINE.—"It is some time since I have seen the best of the 'Judge' and 'Delineator' and 'Grand Trial'." Sent for samples of both styles. No. 100 Broadway.

## New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1866.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

We will thank our advertising customers to hand in their advertisements at as early an hour as possible. If received after 5 o'clock they cannot be classified under their proper heads.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. What ever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee for his good faith.

All business letters for this office should be addressed to "THE TRIBUNE," New-York.

We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

On the second page of to-day's paper will be found a report of the proceedings of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, a list of the unemployed appointments in the Internal Revenue Service, the Court reports, City news, Commercial news, and the Markets. On the sixth page are Scientific items.

The Lower House of the South Carolina Legislature have rejected the Constitutional Amendment, by a vote of 95 to 1; and there is no prospect that it will fare any better, if as well, in the Senate. The vote was a matter of form, merely; the sentiment of South Carolina on this subject is many months stale.

A resolution, offered by Mr. Stevens, was adopted in the House yesterday, for the organization of free schools in the District of Columbia, in which no distinction shall be made on account of color. This is the inevitable result of the bill establishing equal suffrage. A little more such legislation will make the District more worthy than it now is to hold the Capitol of the nation.

The Emperor of Austria seems, after all, to have deemed it safest to make peace with the Magyars, for a Cable dispatch informs us that at yesterday's sitting of the Hungarian Diet, the *Tuercinics* (the highest administrative officer of Hungary) announced that the Emperor had resolved to restore the Constitution. This step—supposing that it is not made dependent upon offensive conditions—will produce an immense enthusiasm in Hungary, but it will greatly excite the Slavonic tribes which belong to the Hungarian Crown, and will increase the dissatisfaction in the German provinces.

Gen. Sheridan's version of the Mexican difficulties is given in two letters to the Commander-in-Chief which we print to-day. He claims that Ortega was arrested on the principle that was applied to the Fenian invasion of Canada, though it does not appear that Ortega sustained at the time of his arrest the character of an invader. The invasion of Mexico by Gen. Sedgwick is consistently condemned, but is explained also by the supposed scheme of the Matamoros merchants to create a diversion in the interest of Maximilian, and get their goods out of port free of duty. Ortega appears to have been mixed up in the intrigue, and Gen. Sedgwick was used as a cats-paw.

We print on another page an important list of Assessors and Collectors in the Internal Revenue Department, appointed by Andrew Johnson during the past four months, but unconfirmed by the Senate. No less than 215 officers out of 440 have been removed by Mr. Johnson in that brief time, for no other reason than their fidelity to the Republican party. The Senate will not consider these appointments till January, when it will find that most of them are known only as Democrats or deserters. Nineteen removals were made in this State, and thirty-four in Pennsylvania. Many of the men appointed are notoriously unfit for the positions, and the Senate will reject the great majority.

The impression appears to be general in the Houses of Representatives that the bill to increase salaries having been passed at the last session, the members are legally obliged to accept the extra sum. We assure them that no penalties will be enforced against any member who declines the money. The method by which Congress secured that extra pay was especially discreditable because it was cowardly. The people expect to see the act raising the salaries repealed, and the mileage cut down to a decent figure. Had it not been for the transcendent importance of other subjects, the recent elections would have convinced even Mr. Driggs that the people were disgusted with the extra swindle. But now that the question between Mr. Johnson and Congress is settled, the members who vote against the repeal of the appropriation will not be overlooked.

Judge McCunn is the somewhat notorious author of many curious decisions; one of them on the New-York Gambling law. He comments on the "gentle" mainly spirit of the common law in refusing to allow the victim of a gambler to recover his money. Fancy the gentle spirit of the common law allowing your pocket to be picked or your house to be robbed without even a gentlemanly apology therefor! That is not quite so cool, to be sure, as Judge McCunn's assurance that it is the politest thing in the world to fleece or to be fleeced, and that all that a gentlemanly law or a well-behaved judge can do is to take sides with the robber. This idea of what is gentlemanly would not surprise us as coming from the far bank, but as a judicial opinion would be deemed curious if it had proceeded from almost any other than Judge McCunn.

Corporal punishment has long been the common penalty for petty offenses in the South. Until lately it was prevalent in the most northern of the Border States, surviving the auction block, as a last relic of barbarism. The disgust with which the actual opera-

## tions of the whipping-post inspired our soldiers in North and South Carolina led to several military orders prohibiting its further use. But inveterate advocates of the whip and of mean wages have come as far as Washington to beg that the whipping-post be continued. It is cheaper, they think, to scourge a criminal, and let him go a more wretched vagabond than he ever made himself, than to maintain him at the public expense; hence, a great business in cuts and bruises, and iron-stringed cats-of-nine-tails, is done at the Southern whipping-post. Mr. Wilson's resolution, introduced yesterday in the Senate, is an effort to put a stop to these legal barbarities. The rescue of a negro at Raleigh from the pillory, by a U. S. officer, is mentioned in our news to-day. It meets the spirit of Mr. Wilson's resolutions exactly.

No new light on the Mexican question, or on the policy of our Government with regard to it, is obtained from the public documents which were laid before Congress yesterday. Santa Anna has long been known as an unscrupulous demagogue, and this correspondence will largely add to that reputation. Santa Anna was desirous of obtaining the aid of the United States in the war against the Government of Maximilian, and, although a private citizen, intimated that he would engage, in the name of the Mexican Republic, to pay for such aid any price that might be demanded. He was answered that the Government of the United States would treat only with the legitimate chief of the Mexican nation, President Juarez. In a letter to Mr. Seward, Santa Anna maintains that at an interview he had with Mr. Seward, at St. Thomas, the latter expressed approval of his proposed movements. How much or little truth there may be in this statement is one of the few matters in this correspondence the public would like to know more about.

THE TAX ON COTTON.  
The Chamber of Commerce has had under consideration a memorial to Congress, asking that the tax on cotton should be abolished, on the ground that it is injurious to American interests. The subject was debated yesterday very fully; we print elsewhere the proceedings. The leading argument against the repeal of the tax was made by Mr. Elliot C. Cowdin, and from the importance of the subject we give his entire address. Mr. Cowdin, in reply to the claim that the tax is unjust, because no other agricultural product is so heavily taxed than cotton; the South, on the other hand, is almost exclusively devoted to agriculture, and therefore to remove the tax on cotton would be to compel the North to bear almost the entire weight of taxation. It is not quality, but quantity of production that is considered in the distribution of taxes. Take the cotton tax from the South, and it is not taxed at all. The objection that a tax on cotton discourages production at home and encourages it abroad, is met by Mr. Cowdin with the argument that "the principle contended for would virtually abolish all internal taxation." The decrease in cotton production recently is demonstrated not to be the result of this small tax, but of the war. It is notorious that the planters from 1862 devoted themselves to raising grain to support the Rebel armies. He exposes the non-application of the argument that the tax is unimportant as a means of helping to pay the national debt, by the evident fact that it was not imposed to liquidate that obligation, but to provide revenue for immediate use. Of \$499,000,000 raised from customs and internal revenue in the fiscal year ending June 30, but \$29,000,000 were supplied by the tax on cotton. Beyond this tax the revenue from the Southern States was insignificant. Mr. Cowdin pertinently asks what the planters have ever done that the North, now bearing an enormous proportion of the burden of taxation, should assume the whole weight? No tax has been imposed as a penalty on the Rebel States, and it is but just that the duty should be fairly distributed. It is true that the constitutionality of the cotton tax has been denied, but, as Mr. Cowdin well suggests, that is not the business of the Chamber of Commerce, but of the Supreme Court. We can hardly afford to exempt the South from all taxation, nor is it to be forgotten that it was by the Rebellion alone that the burden was imposed. No attempt was made to refute these arguments, and the almost unanimous vote by which the subject was indefinitely postponed shows that the merchants of New-York believe with Congress that the tax is at present not only just but expedient.

MR. SEWARD'S DIPLOMACY.  
Mr. Seward's friends assert that the recent batch of Mexican rumors were set on foot by personal hostility to Mr. Seward. They do not seem to comprehend the fact that whatever credence might be given them arose from the want of principle, consistency, and truth which have been exhibited in the diplomacy of the Secretary and his subordinates. Those unhappy characteristics, displayed again and again throughout the voluminous correspondence of the Department, have impaired, if they have not utterly destroyed, the confidence of the people in the Secretary of the Government, and they are consequently left in painful doubt whether the extravagant rumors in relation to speculative jobs about to be accomplished by our National diplomacy may not have at least some basis of truth. It became known that the return of the French troops from Mexico had been ordered by the Emperor, not in consequence of any manly and decisive protest by our Minister at Paris, speaking the unanimous sentiments of the American people against the bastard empire of Maximilian, but for the reason that Mr. Bigelow had voluntarily tendered to M. Drouin de Lhuys our recognition of Maximilian as a bribe for the departure of the French forces. No tale could thereafter be invented half so incredible, or involving a larger sacrifice of the National dignity, a more wanton insult to the American people, or a more disgraceful cringing to a foreign power, under circumstances of premeditated wrong and menace.

The shuffling policy of the State Department in the whole business is thus far without explanation. Why did Mr. Seward attempt to ward off the just suspicions and allay the patriotic fears of Mr. Corwin, our Minister to Mexico, by assuring him that the scheme of an Empire and an Austrian Prince was abandoned, at the very moment when it was progressing rapidly to completion? Why did he make so marked a difference in extending custom-house facilities to the agents of France for the shipment of material of war—facilities which were denied to Mexico in a manner that called forth the indignant protest of Signor Romero? Why, after the Senate and the House had declared their invincible repugnance to the Empire of Maximilian, and their determination to recognize only the Republic of Mexico, did Mr. Seward's agent in Paris voluntarily tender a recognition of Maximilian? Why, more recently,